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Date of Deposit: June 16, 2006

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Appln. of: Minoru Kuroda et al.

International

Serial No. PCT/JP2004/019726

U.S. Serial No.: Applied for

Intl. Filing Date: December 24, 2004

U.S. Filing Date: Herewith

Title: STEP PILE FABRIC AND  
PROCESS FOR PRODUCING  
THE SAME

Attorney Docket No: 5404/154

Examiner: Not Assigned

Art Unit: Not Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, and more particularly in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), Applicant hereby cites the following reference(s):

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER<br>Number-Kind Code (if known) | DATE       | APPLICANT |
|---|------------|-----------|
| JP 2003-253574 A                                  | 09/10/2003 | Japan     |
| JP 06-158422 A                                    | 06/07/1994 | Japan     |

**OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**

International Search Report from Corresponding International Application  
No. PCT/JP2004/019726, dated May 10, 2005, 2 pages.

Applicant is enclosing Form PTO-1449 (one sheet), along with a copy of each listed reference for which a copy is required under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2).

IAP12 Rec'd PCT/PTO 16 JUN 2006

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's consideration of the above reference(s) and entry thereof into the record of this application.

By submitting this Statement, Applicant is attempting to fully comply with the duty of candor and good faith mandated by 37 C.F.R. §1.56. As such, this Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any of the enclosed references, or other information referred to therein, constitutes "prior art" or is otherwise "material to patentability," as that phrase is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a).

Applicant has calculated no fee to be due in connection with the filing of this Statement. However, the Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency associated with the filing of this Statement to a deposit account, as authorized in the Transmittal accompanying this Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

June 16, 2006  
Date

Richard G. Lione  
Richard G. Lione (Reg. No. 19,795)

10/583242

IAP12 Rec'd PCT/PTO 16 JUN 2006

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| FORM PTO-1449  | INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.<br>PCT/JP2004/019726 | CASE NO.<br>5404/154           |
| LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT<br>(use several sheets if necessary) | INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE<br>December 24, 2004     | GROUP ART UNIT<br>Not Assigned |
| FIRST NAMED INVENTOR: Minoru Kuroda et al.   |  |                                |
| EXAMINER NAME: Not Assigned  |  |                                |

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIALS | Cite No. | DOCUMENT NUMBER<br>Number-Kind Code (if known) | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Class/Subclass | Filing Date |
|-------------------|----------|--|--------------------------------|---|----------------|-------------|
|                   |          |  |                                |   |                |             |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIALS | Cite No. | Foreign Patent Document<br>Country Code, Number -Number-<br>Kind Code (if known) | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | COUNTRY | Class/<br>Subclass | Translation<br>Yes or No |
|-------------------|----------|--|--------------------------------|---------|--------------------|--------------------------|
|                   | A1       | JP 2003-253574 A   | 09/10/2003                     | Japan   |                    | Abstract                 |
|                   | A2       | JP 06-158422 A   | 06/07/1994                     | Japan   |                    | Abstract                 |

| EXAMINER INITIAL | NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS<br>(Include name of author, title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. |  | T |
|------------------|---|--|---|
|                  | A3  | International Search Report from Corresponding International Application No. PCT/JP2004/019726, dated May 10, 2005, 2 pages. |   |

NOTE: For "T" – please place an "X" if an English translation is being provided to the Patent Office.

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
|----------|-----------------|

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.